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# HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

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U. S. DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

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SUBJECT: "Mildewed Linens"...Information from the textile specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture.

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One of the saddest moments in a homemaker's summer comes when she finds her towels or sheets mildewed. Perhaps she folded them before they were completely dry...or maybe they didn't get enough air and sunshine. At any rate, the textile specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture tell us that whenever a homemaker finds her household linens mildewing...it's best to save the tears over what's done until a more leisurely moment and get busy right then treating the molded material.

If the mildew is fresh...a good washing with soap and water followed by a thorough sunning will usually take out the stain. But if that doesn't work...try covering the affected places with lemon juice and salt. Then hang the linens in the sun.

But should the mildew seem to have a firm start...more drastic treatment is in order. Mold in white fabrics may yield to a good soaking in a solution of sodium perborate. Yes...the same sodium perborate that's often used as a mouth wash. The solution should contain about four tablespoons of sodium perborate for each pint of soapy water. Let the linens soak in this for as long as a half hour...then rinse thoroughly and hang in the sunniest and airiest place you can find.

Old mildew stains on white cotton, linen, or rayon materials may be bleached out with Javelle water. But go easy with the chlorine bleach...because it's strong stuff. Other fabrics...white or colored...aren't safe under it. The Javelle water may attack the fibers of your material if you let it stay on the spot for more than one minute. After one minute of the Javelle water...soak the material in a solution of one or two teaspoons of vinegar in one pint of water. It's better if you add a half teaspoon of sodium thiosulfate to the vinegar water. Finally...rinse. If the spot isn't out...repeat the Javelle-water-thiosulfate treatment several times.

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